Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 01806 201125Z ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 /070 W

P 200945Z APR 78 FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8114 USINT HAVANA PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 1806 DEPT PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PEPR, CU, ET

SUBJ: MENGISTU TRIP TO CUBA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1791

MOFA PROTOCOL HAS JUST INFORMED EMBASSY THAT CHAIRMAN MENGISTU WILL DEPART EVENING APRIL 20 FOR CUBA. ALL COMS ARE INVITED FOR SEND-OFF. DIP CIRCLE RUMOR MILL HAD HIM ALREADY SLIPPED OUT BY MORNING APRIL 19. IN VIEW OF ANNOUNCEMENT (REFTEL) AND CEREMONIAL DEPARTURE, MENGISTU WOULD SEEM TO BE EXPECTING SUCCESS FROM TRIP AND MAXIMUM PUBLICITY WHILE ON IT. THIS IS FIRST TIME SINCE MOSCOW TRIP IN SPRING 1977 THAT HIS DEPARTURE FROM ADDIS FOR A COMMUNIST CAPITAL HAS BEEN TREATED OPENLY. LAST OCTOBER'S TRIP TO HAVANA AND EAST EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS AND HIS MARCH 17 TRIP TO MOSCOW BOTH STARTED OFF AS FAIRLY TIGHT SECRETS.

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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Subject: MENGISTU TRIP TO CUBA

TAGS: PEPR, CU, ET, (MENGISTU HAILE MARIAM)
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